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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1957

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

August, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	8,022
Population - Census, 1951	10,398
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1957	10,300
Number of inhabited houses	3,493
Rateable Value	£66,405
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£273.18.1

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

The male working population is largely employed in the shipyards and steel-works at Barrow and in agriculture, but a number of light industries employ female labour.

Accident at Windscale.

Special reference must be made to the local effects of the accident which occurred at Windscale No. 1 Pile on 10th October, 1957. It will be recalled that the pile became overheated during a routine maintenance operation and as a result radioactive products were liberated. Most of these were trapped in the filters of the plant and the only isotope to escape into the atmosphere in appreciable amounts was radio-iodine. This was carried by the prevailing wind and deposited on the ground over an area of approximately 200 square miles including the Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness. The greatest hazard to health came from the consumption of milk from cows grazed on the contaminated land and especially to infants and children who are relatively bigger consumers and more susceptible to the effects of radiation. The distribution of milk from this District was suspended on 15th October and not resumed until tests had shown that its radio-iodine content had fallen to a safe level. As events turned out and perhaps as a result of the precautions taken no damage to the health of the population occurred.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

J.L.WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.F.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Ulverston Urban District
Council, Grange-over-Sands
Urban District Council,
Ulverston Rural District
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

W.W.JACKSON. C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Meat and Other Foods Inspectors
Certificate R.S.I. Certificate
in Sanitary Science as applied
to Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent:-
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District Council.
Housing Officer -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for the year 1957 and for the preceding five years are given on page three.

Of the 181 births registered, 84 were males 4 being illegitimate, and 97 were females, of which 2 were illegitimate.

Approximately 62% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 56, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 27 and Malignant Growths 23.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller towns and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Years	England and Wales.		160 Smaller Towns 25,000-50,000 population.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1957	16.1	11.5	16.0	11.4	17.9	15.6
1956	15.6	11.7	15.6	11.6	15.3	14.8
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	14.8	13.1
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.3	14.8	12.2
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	14.3	11.9

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality Total			
	Rate per 1,000 regis- tered. popul- ation.	Rate per 1,000 regis- tered. popul- ation.	Rate per 1,000 regis- tered. popul- ation.	Rate per 1,000 regis- total births.	Rate per 1,000 regis- total births.	Rate per 1,000 regis- total births.	No. of per deaths 1,000 regis- total births.	No. of per deaths 1,000 regis- live births.	No. of per deaths 1,000 regis- live births.	No. of per deaths 1,000 regis- live births.	Rate per deaths 1,000 regis- live births.	
1957	181	x17.6	155	x15.0	6	32	Nil	Nil	7	39	6	33
1956	154	14.9	147	14.2	5	31	Nil	Nil	6	39	4	26
1955	148	14.3	141	13.7	2	13	Nil	Nil	6	41	4	27
1954	148	14.4	121	12.7	5	33	Nil	Nil	5	34	1	7
1953	136	13.2	126	12.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	44	5	37
1952	165	16.0	143	13.8	3	18	1	5.95	5	30	4	24
Average 5 years 1952-1956	-	14.6	-	13.3	-	19	-	1	-	37	-	24

x Live birth rate (Comparability factor, 1.02) = 17.9 per 1,000
 Death rate (Comparability factor, 1.04) = 15.6 per 1,000

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

The public supply now serves 3,463 houses direct and the number served by standpipes remains the same as before, namely 13. There are 17 houses supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

HOUSING.

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type, opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water system and some are being allowed to fall into disrepair on account of the high cost of repairs and low rents. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness.

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats.</u>
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(1) By local authority	Nil	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	8	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	23
	(b)	Number of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose	47
(2)		Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
	(a)	Number found during year	6
	(b)	Total number existing at end of year	3
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.	17

2. <u>Houses Demolished</u>		Displaced during year	
In Clearance Areas-(Housing Act, 1936 Repairs and Rent Act, 1954):	Houses Demolished	Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	5	Nil	None
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	Nil	Nil	None
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	None
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	None

3. Unfit Houses Closed Nil

4. <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.</u>	By Local Authority	
	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	8	---
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	6	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil	---

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954) Nil

6. Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased By Agreement. Nil

7. <u>Housing Act, 1949-Improvement Grants, etc.</u>		No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	
Action during the year:-		No. of Schemes	
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority		21	21
(b) Approved by local authority		21	21
(c) Submitted by local authority		Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry		Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed		24	24
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above			
			1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details regarding the inspection of food is given in the Public Health Inspectors Report.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 -

Number of registered distributors operating from:-

(a)	Dairies in the district	3
(b)	Dairy farms in the district	17
(c)	Shops in the district other than dairies	1
(d)	Premises outside the district	3

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954

No. of dealers licences issued by the local authority during 1957 in respect of:-	"Tuberculin Tested" Milk-6
	"Accredited" Milk-Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1953.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat Treated" Milk	Retail Distributors.
	(a) "Pasteurised"-7
	(b) "Sterilised"-Nil

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	49	6	1	94	17
Number Inspected	49	6	1	94	17
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.....	18%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
No carcase or part of carcase was found to be infected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
No carcase or part of carcase was found to be infected with cysticercus	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the numbers of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the 5 years 1952-1956 compared with the numbers in 1957.

Disease.	Number of cases in year					<u>1957</u>		
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	11	6	2	1	4	1	0	0
Measles	47	298	67	22	14	152	1	0
Whooping cough	18	9	58	22	9	13	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	4	2	3	1	0	2	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infective encephalitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	13	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia (primary or influenzal	3	4	2	1	2	1	0	1
TOTALS	99	320	133	51	30	169	1	1

The outbreak of measles occurred during the last quarter of the year.

4 houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis and clothing and bedding has been disinfected by steam when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1957.

Age Periods	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
	5		0		2		0	

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	4	7	0	2	2	8	1	0
1947	9	8	4	3	2	1	1	0
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
1949	10	4	1	4	2	0	2	0
1950	3	7	2	3	3	0	1	1
1951	8	8	2	2	3	0	2	1
1952	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
1953	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1954	10	4	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	6	9	0	0	3	0	0	0
1957	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.)

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	11	9	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	35	24	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

No action was required under the above mentioned Acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank Members of the Health Committee and the Officer of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L.WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

In making this Annual Report to you on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service for 1957, I am pleased to report that the work has proceeded normally, nothing of a serious nature having occurred. The absence from duty of a full time Surveyor over a large period of the year, caused quite a disturbance of regular routine work.

The repair of property appears to be easing some what, materials being more readily available than they have been for some years. The high level of costs was again a serious matter during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council has made twenty-one Improvement Grants during the year, chiefly to owner occupiers and whilst this work takes up a considerable amount of time, it is well worth while owing to the increased standard of housing accommodation which is produced. It is disappointing, however, that Landlords having property to let have not taken advantage of this scheme.

MILK SUPPLY.

We had no unsatisfactory milk samples during the year. The number of milk samples taken were not many owing to the large percentage of milk pasteurised at the Barrow Dairies. The district became a "Specified Area" in November.

ICE CREAM

There is no change to report under this heading, there still being only one Ice Cream Manufactory.

Samples are difficult to obtain as the manufacturing process is very irregular, being dependant upon the demand at the time and it is often necessary to make a number of calls before a sample can be taken; the samples taken have proved satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and the one Knackers Yard.

FOOD SUPPLY

Three hundred and nine visits were made to the various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good. The Food Hygiene Regulations, whilst causing a considerable amount of work, have been thoroughly beneficial and most of the smaller stores now carry only pre-packed articles of food.

The most noticeable improvements have been in butchers shops and the response here to the Food Hygiene Regulations has been most satisfying. The education of food handlers is carried on when visits are made to this class of premises, this being in my opinion the best method of carrying out the work.

The following articles were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

<u>Fish</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
3 tins of fish	8 jars of red cabbage	6 tins of rice pudding
<u>Meat</u>	1 jar of beetroot	3 tins of frozen egg
	2 tins of peas	2 jars of salad cream
	1 tin of beans	4 jars of jam
44 tins of meat	1 jar of onions	18 oz. butter
1 lb. of sausage	1 tin of tomatoes	6 tins of soup
		1 tin of milk
<u>Fruit</u>		
16 tins of fruit		

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continued to operate without undue complaint, the annual holidays being staggered over the summer without employing extra staff, a fact which entails some delay in the collection of refuse, but I feel that this is greatly to be preferred than a complete stoppage.

I feel I must comment on the fact that the refuse is disposed of at Elliscates tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscates tip is its isolation.

There are thirty one privies, eight pail closets and thirty four dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying places.

During the year 104 tons 17 cwts. of waste paper valued at £753-19s-0d and rags to the value of £17-12s-0d were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1956 were 83 tons of paper valued at £600 and rags to the value of £24.

HOUSING.

The three bungalows of North Lodge still remain as the only temporary housing accommodation.

Since we are now only able to let houses which become empty by reason of the existing tenants leaving, the progress of providing accommodation for those families on the housing list is very slow and the number of cases requiring urgent attention is steadily rising and is causing more and more worry to the Housing Sub-Committee.

The provision of bungalows for old people is still an urgent necessity. Whilst providing more suitable accommodation for the older people, transfers of existing tenancies could be made from our existing houses, thus making available a family unit for the re-housing of younger families at the reduced cost.

The clearance of slum property continues and we are well up to date with the programme submitted to the Central Government some time ago.

In conclusion it gives me great pleasure to put on record the good feelings existing between the various trades of the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, Medical Officer of Health and other Officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Beale and the Cleansing Staff, without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM W. JACKSON.

Public Health Inspector.

